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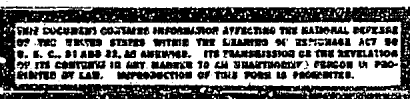
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SOURCE Rabotnichesko Delo.ANTI-MECHANIZATION TENDENCIESIN BULGARIAN FARM WORKERS' COOPERATIVES

The article below may be of interest in that it bluntly points out examples of resistance to the government farm mechanization programs. It may merely be a reflection of a natural resistance to the expense of obtaining the services of the MTS, or it may be an indication of serious difficulties in the implementation of the mechanization programs.

The party and the government are taking great pains to help Bulgarian farmers cultivate the land with machines in order to ease their work and increase yields.

More than 140 MTS (machine tractor stations) are now operating, having at their disposal an extensive machine pool, including tractors, combines, mobile repair shops, threshers, harvesters, etc.

During 1951, the machines of the MTS accounted for 50 percent of the spring plowing, 26 percent of the sowing, 15.6 percent of the harvesting, and 64.1 percent of the fall deep-plowing. The plans for 1952 raise these figures as follows: 74 percent of the spring plowing, 42 percent of the sowing, 36.7 percent of the harvesting, and 64 percent of the fall deep-plowing.

The use of machinery in the cultivation of crops undoubtedly raises the yield.

For example, increased mechanization in the farm workers' cooperative in Vinarsko, Aytos Okoliya, in 1951 gave an average yield per decare of 245 kilograms of wheat, 325 kilograms of oats, and 140 kilograms of sunflower seeds, while private farm owners in the same village, for the same period, obtained average yields of 210 kilograms of oats and 110 kilograms of sunflower seeds per decare.

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The farm workers' cooperative in Karaisen, Pavlikeni Okoliya, has received a yield of 200 kilograms of cotton per decare on 840 decares sown with cotton; of the 840 decares, 55 decares yielded as much as 264 kilograms each.

Farm Workers' Cooperative No 2 in Butan, Oryakhovo Okoliya, has obtained from 540 decares in lots No 18 and 19 a yield averaging 100 kilograms per decare more than that of adjacent lots which were not machine-cultivated. A shallow plow was used for plowing under the stubble field in lots 18 and 19, and a plow equipped with a colter was used for the fall deep-plowing. For the services of the MTS, the farm workers' cooperative will have to pay 2.5 kilograms of corn per decare for plowing with the shallow plow, 22 kilograms per decare for the fall deep-plowing, and 3.5 kilograms per decare for preparing the soil, or a total of 28 kilograms of corn per decare for the three operations. For the entire 540 decares worked by the MTS, the farm workers' cooperative will have to pay 14,820 kilograms in kind. It will receive a 54,000-kilogram increase in yield through mechanization and will have a net gain of 39,180 kilograms. Furthermore, the state delivery quota of the farm workers' cooperatives has been reduced by an amount equal to 50 percent of the payment in kind to the MTS. In this case, the cooperative's quota will be reduced by 7,410 kilograms.

These and many more examples show that mechanization of agricultural work considerably raises the yields of the various crops. These increases not only pay for the services of the MTS, but yield greater amounts of products for distribution among the cooperative members, which increases their well-being.

In 1951, there were great differences between the average yields obtained by private landowners and those obtained in the farm workers' cooperatives. The farm workers' cooperatives showed the following increases in yields: wheat, 20.6 percent; corn, 20 percent; sunflower seeds, 18 percent; and cotton, 25 percent. These results are due to the ever-increasing mechanization of the work of the farm workers' cooperatives. It is obvious how much the cooperative members have gained from this mechanization. Besides increasing the yields, the mechanization in the farm workers' cooperatives frees much labor, which is very much needed in the care of industrial crops during the most active period of field work and also for the livestock farms and other economic branches of the farm workers' cooperatives. Labor is also freed for Bulgarian industry, where it is in great demand.

In the light of these facts, the antimechanization tendencies existing in isolated farm workers' cooperatives stand out as clearly harmful and reactionary.

The chairmen of the farm workers' cooperatives in Duskot and Patresh, Pavlikeni Okoliya, and in Galovo and Krushovene, Oryakhovo Okoliya, refused to sign contracts with the local MTS.

The farm workers' cooperatives in Gabrovnitsa, Lekhechevo, Erden, and other villages of Mikhaylovgrad Okoliya refuse to let the tractor brigades of the MTS prepare the soil under the laughable pretext that the tractors would trample the ground.

The chairman of the farm workers' cooperative in Erden village has declined to use MTS services in preparing and planting 500 decares to sunflowers. Notwithstanding the fact that an MTS has contracted to do the work, he has made arrangements to have the work done with draft animals.

The farm workers' cooperative in Vasilovtsi, Lom Okoliya, refuses to let the tractor brigade carry out soil preparation and planting of the spring crops. The cooperative wants the machines to do only the plowing.

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The chairman of the farm workers' cooperative in Tamarino, Yambol Okoliya, holds that the leveling after the fall deep-plowing and the spring planting do not require the services of the MTS. In the Sofia area some farm workers' cooperatives do not wish leveling after the fall deep-plowing, and they have concluded contracts only for spring plowing.

Antimechanization tendencies and demonstrations on the part of any farm workers' cooperative leaders are extremely dangerous, thoroughly reactionary, regressive in nature, and directed against the interests of the farm workers' cooperative and the cooperative members.

The entire MTS machine pool must be in operation day and night at peak capacity. The participation of MTS in the planting of early spring crops is unsatisfactory. The administrators of a number of MTS, as well as the MTS administrators at the Ministry of Agriculture, have succumbed to a strange, unjustifiable self-assurance, which helps the antimechanization tendencies and activities and leads to obvious losses to the national economy.

A speedy and definite end must be put to this attitude.

The party organizations, the political sections at the MTS, and the people's soviets must see that the mechanization of agriculture is carried out to the full capacity of the MTS; they must decisively take up the fight against antimechanization tendencies and activities; they must explain the harmful effects on the national economy and on the cooperative members themselves of such tendencies and activities; they must take the most energetic measures for the rapid completion of the planting of rye, oat, sunflower, and vetch crops; and they must see that the planting of medium-early and late spring crops occurs as scheduled.

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